

#### **Agreement with the Bharti Telenet Ltd**

4144. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Department of Telecommunications has signed the licence and interconnect agreement with the Bharti Telenet Ltd. for providing basic telephone services; and

(b) if so, the details of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) M/S Bharti Telenet Ltd. has been given Licence to provide Basic Telephone Service in Madhya Pradesh Circle on non-exclusive basis for a period of 15 years. The main features of agreements are that during the licensed period, the company shall be paying a total of Rs. 654.50 crores as levy amount and 2% of the annual gross profit towards the administrative charges and R & D Cess. The company shall also pay Interconnection charges for the links to DOT network and Access charges for STD and ISD calls. Further the tariff for the service provided shall not be more than DOT's Tariff and is subject to regulation by TRAI.

In first three years of operation, the company shall provide 1.5 lakh telephone lines including 16,500 Village Public Telephones.

#### **Improvement of Guwahati Airport**

4145. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA :  
SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the programmes initiated for improvement of Guwahati Airport;

(b) the reasons for delay in implementing the project and the target period fixed for its completion;

(c) the additional steps initiated to develop it as an International Airport as declared by the Prime Minister; and

(d) the steps taken for Cargo Depot at Guwahati Airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) During the 9th Plan period, there are plans to upgrade Guwahati airport for limited international operations. Some of the major works taken/ to be taken up are :

- Modification of the terminal building at a cost of Rs. 17.15 crores to be completed by December, 1997.
- Extension of runway from 9000 ft. to 11500 ft. for operation of Boeing 747 type of aircraft; land is being acquired for this purpose.

Extension of apron at a cost of Rs. 2.41 crores to be completed by June, 1997.

(d) There are plans to construct a new Cargo complex at Guwahati airport. For this purpose also, land has to be acquired.

[Translation]

#### **Reservation Charts**

4146. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :  
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to affix the reservation charts in the trains at railway yard instead of platform so that passengers do not face any problem in finding their names on arrival of trains at platforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) While issuing tickets to passengers provided with confirmed reservation for travelling in sleeper class, AC 2-tier, Chair Car Class, Coach number and berth/seat numbers are indicated on the ticket itself so that they do not face any inconvenience. Moreover, the reservation charts are displayed on the Chart Boards at the Platform well in time before the scheduled departure of the train. These are also pasted on the train immediately after placement of rake on the Platform. These arrangements are working satisfactorily.

[English]

#### **Absorption of Steam Locoshed Workers**

4147. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have initiated steps to absorb the erstwhile workers of Steam Locosheds at different places in the country now rendered unemployed after phasing out of Steam Locomotives;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) No railway staff, rendered surplus due to closure of steam sheds, has been retrenched. All such railway staff are being redeployed after suitable training. However, the issue regarding absorption of the Labours, engaged by the private contractors for doing coal/ash handling work in steam loco sheds is under consideration of this Ministry, pursuant to reply to a Starred Question No. 362, replied on 27.08.1996 in Lok Sabha, wherein

Sabha has been assured that whatever is possible for these contract labourers, will be done.

[Translation]

#### Train Accidents

4148. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :  
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :  
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of train accidents which occurred in the country during the last six months, month-wise;

(b) the causes of these accidents and the number of persons killed therein alongwith the amount of compensation given by the Government to the affected families; and

(c) the extent of loss incurred by the Government during each of the last two years due to the accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Month-wise break-up of consequential train accidents on Indian Railways since September, 1996 is as under :

September, 1996 - 27; October, 1996 - 23;  
November, 1996 - 27; December, 1996-28;  
January, 1997 - 29 and February, 1997 - 32.

(b) Main causes of accidents were human failure, equipment failure and sabotage. As per provisional information, 141 persons lost their lives in these accidents. Fatalities are inclusive of 43 victims in two bomb blasts and 84 persons other than passengers or railway staff. Compensation will be paid soon after the claims are decreed by the Railway Claims Tribunal.

(c) Cost of damage to railway property due to accidents during 1994-95 and 1995-96 was Rs. 38.18 crores and Rs. 46.15 crores respectively.

#### Scheme to Connect Tourist Places by Air Services

4149. SHRI SOHAN VEER SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme to connect tourist places by air services during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the tourist places connected with air services in Uttar Pradesh at present?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Indian Airlines and Alliance Air are operating to Lucknow, Agra and Varanasi.

#### Contracts to Foreign Companies

4150. SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the foreign companies which have been awarded communication contracts during the last six months;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been transparency awarding in these contracts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) (i) Names of the companies which have been awarded contracts for the supply of telecom equipment during last six months along with details is indicated below :

Name of the Co.	Equipment	Value of Contract
1. M/s. Philips Netherland	ISDN Feature phone	52644
2. M/s. EF Data Corpn; USA	IDR 34 MBPS MOD/DEMOM	USD 452210

(ii) List of foreign companies to whom contracts were awarded during the last six months by Deptt. of Posts for carriage of International Airmail is enclosed as Statement.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The contracts have been awarded through Open Tender Process.

#### Statement

List of Foreign Companies to which contracts were awarded during last Six Months for the Carriage of International Airmail

1. Thai Airways
2. Lufthansa Cargo
3. Saudi Arabian Airlines
4. Kenya Airways
5. Egypt Air
6. British Airways
7. KLM Cargo
8. Singapore Airlines
9. Oantas Airways
10. Ethiopian Air
11. Kuwait Airways
12. Gulf Air.
13. United Airlines